

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for providing timing information to radio heads in a wireless communications system. One or more radio heads are connected to a central unit by a respective cable. This cable includes at least two sets of conductors. The first set carries communication data between the central unit and the radio head. This communication data may be user data, such as voice, data, or fax data, and optionally control data. This communication data is transferred between the radio head and the central unit using an asynchronous transmit method. Due to its variable timing of successful receipt, it may be difficult to send highly accurate timing data via asynchronous transmit methods. Instead, a synchronous transmit method may be advantageously employed to send timing data in the present invention. The timing data is sent on the second set of conductors of the same cable using a synchronous transmit method. Thus, each cable of the present invention carries both asynchronous transmissions and synchronous transmissions. The cable may advantageously be a portion of an existing LAN cable plant, and the asynchronous transmit method may be according to an Ethernet protocol. One or more radio heads may be supplied with timing data in this fashion. The timing of radio frequency transmissions from those radio heads may then be based on the supplied timing information, for instance to coordinate the transmissions from multiple radio heads so as to be simultaneous.